

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner maintained his rejection of claims 6-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 2,800,709 to Gaul (Gaul) and U.S. Patent No. 1,701,889 to Junker (Junker) or the combination of Gaul, Junker, and U.S. Patent No. 3,908,746 to Follrath (Follrath). In an effort to advance prosecution and without conceding to the Examiner's reasoning presented on pages 2-8 of the Final Office Action, Applicant has amended independent claims 6 and 14 together with dependent claims 7, 8, 11, 15, and 16. Applicant submits that no new matter has been introduced by the present Amendment. For example, the amendments to claims 6-8, 11, and 14-16 are supported by pages 5, 7, and 8 and FIG. 2 of the originally-filed specification as well as previously presented claims 7 and 15.

In view of the amendments to the Claims, together with the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection.

Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 6, 11-14, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Gaul and Junker. Claims 7-10 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Gaul, Junker, and Follrath.

Applicant has amended independent claims 6 and 14 and respectfully submits that a prima facie case for obviousness does not exist against either amended independent claim 6 or claim 14 at least because none of Gaul, Junker, or Follrath teaches or suggests sawing at least one cladding layer from a first ingot made from a first aluminum material in a longitudinal direction. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of independent claims 6 and 14. Applicant also requests the removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 7-13 and 15-17, which depend from either independent claim 6 or independent claim 14.

Applicant's amended independent claim 6 is directed to a method for producing an aluminum composite material. One of the method steps recited in claim 6 requires "sawing at least one cladding layer of a specified thickness suitable for use as a cladding layer from a first ingot made from a first aluminum material in a longitudinal direction." Applicant's amended claim 14 is directed to producing at least one aluminum cladding layer from a first ingot made

from a first aluminum material. Applicant's claim 14 requires "sawing an aluminum cladding sheet from the first ingot in a longitudinal direction at a specified thickness suitable for use as a cladding sheet for the composite material." As described on pages 5 and 8 of the originally-filed specification, sawing the cladding sheets from the ingot in a longitudinal direction provides a number of advantages. For example, an excellent plane-parallel arrangement can be achieved resulting in an optimization in thickness of the cladding sheets. In addition, the process of welding between the cladding sheets and core ingots is simplified. Finally, a further advantage is a reduction in required surfaced treatments.

According to page 3 of the Final Office Action, neither Gaul nor Junker teach or suggest sawing at least one cladding layer from an aluminum ingot and as a result they fail to teach or suggest this required element of Applicant's independent claims 6 and 14.

Follrath fails to cure the deficiencies of Gaul and Junker. Specifically, Follrath discloses cutting an ingot into predetermined lengths (i.e., cutting the ingot through the entirety of its thickness and not along a longitudinal direction to produce an aluminum cladding sheet as required by Applicants, see Follrath, column 3, lines 14-20). As described in column 8 lines 26-62, Follrath's device is actuated to move a saw 145 in a lateral cutting direction to cut through the ingot as the saw and log progress in a downstream direction. As a result, Follrath fails to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed step of sawing at least one cladding layer of a specified thickness suitable for use as a cladding layer from a first ingot made from a first aluminum material in a longitudinal direction. Nor does Follrath teach or suggest Applicant's claimed sawing an aluminum cladding sheet from a first ingot in a longitudinal direction at a specified thickness suitable for use as a cladding sheet for a composite material. Since none of the references teach or suggest sawing a cladding sheet from an ingot in a longitudinal direction, Applicant respectfully submit that none of the references teaches or suggests all elements of Applicant's independent claims 6 or 14. As a result, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of independent claims 6 and 14 and all of their dependent claims.

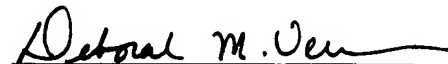
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims 6-17 are in condition for allowance and request favorable action. The Examiner is welcome to contact Applicant's attorney at the number below with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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